

# Governor Carney's Statement on General Assembly Passage of Tobacco Age Legislation

**DOVER, Del.** – Governor John Carney on Thursday released the following statement on the General Assembly's final passage of [Senate Bill 25](#), which will raise the sales age for tobacco products from 18 to 21:

"Preventing smoking is the best thing we can do to improve the health of our state, and reduce the growth of health care costs over time. The use of tobacco-related products is the leading cause of preventable death and disability in Delaware and across the country. Tobacco-related illnesses, such as lung cancer and heart disease, claim the lives of 1,400 Delawareans each year, and treatment of those illnesses costs Delaware families, businesses and the State more than \$530 million annually. We expect this legislation will help curb the impact of smoking on Delaware families by preventing more young Delawareans from picking up this dangerous habit in the first place. I want to thank members of the General Assembly for their partnership on this important legislation, and I look forward to signing this bill into law soon."

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